

# Blue star stickers on sale at Army Community Service

Decals serve as tribute to servicemembers

ACS RELEASE

The North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Coalition in conjunction with Association of the United States Army, National Defense Industrial Association, and Army Space and Missile Defense Association, are sponsoring the implementation of a Corporate Blue Star Banner program that they hope will go nationally. The Blue Star Banner is a profound



reminder of both individuals who are serving their country overseas and their loved ones waiting for them back home. Blue Star Banners, sometimes called Blue Star Service Flags, have been a part of our

wartime history since 1917. At that time, Army Capt. Robert Quessner patented this unofficial symbol in honor of his two sons who were serving on the front lines.

The blue star on a white background with a red border has been displayed proudly by families with members serving in the armed forces since then. They were traditionally displayed in front windows of the homes of service men and women. These banners became a way for households to show family pride in their loved ones serving in the military and to remind others of the sacrifice many Americans make to preserve freedom.

On June 14 at noon, businesses in Madison County and the Tennessee Valley participating in Operation Blue Star will hold cer-

emonies displaying either a Blue Star Flag or a Blue Star Banner at their facility, until the war on terrorism is won. The 3-by-5-foot banner reads, "We honor those who serve."

This initiative was officially kicked off June 2; and the purpose is to renew and help spread this spirit and pride, and to ensure that the more than 135,000 servicemembers are not forgotten.

Army Community Service is selling decal stickers, a smaller scale of the large banner. These 3-by-5-inch stickers can be displayed on cars and windows of homes, or anywhere appropriate, to depict support for this effort. They are available at ACS, building 3338 on Redeye Road, for \$1 each. For more information, call 876-5397.

## Annual advance planning briefing for industry on tap

Forum at Redstone slated July 13-14

By LAURETTA MITCHELL  
For the Rocket

The Army depends on the industrial sector, including both large and small businesses, for most research and development services and nearly all materiel acquisition. Consequently, it is advantageous to the Army to provide information that will help businesses maintain awareness of the prospective Army procurements and develop competitive postures in anticipation of those procurements.

By providing information to industry on Army needs, the Army gains access to existing and emerging technologies and benefits from increased competition during development and acquisition. It is therefore incumbent upon the Army to make available the latest advanced planning and requirements information so that industry can effectively apply its resources in developing the materiel and weapons necessary to support the national defense effort.

The 2004 Team Redstone Advance Planning Briefing for Industry is the

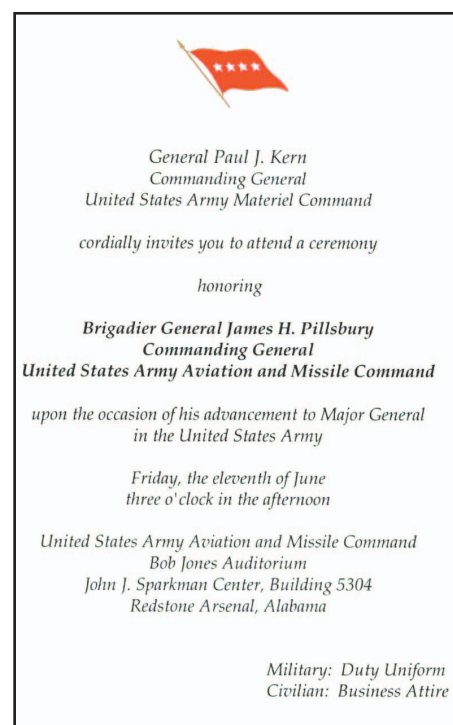
Army's catalysis for providing this information to industry. The APBI is designed to provide current, factual and definitive information to further the mutually profitable exchange of information with industry, research and educational organizations. The conference will cover a complete spectrum of long-range Army aviation and missile technology efforts and requirements 3 to 5 years prior to solicitation as well as near-term efforts and requirements.

Information will be provided on potential contract opportunities, including major end items, secondary items (components/spares), automation, maintenance (overhaul/repairs), and

other service requirements as well as scientific and technological advances required to meet future Army needs. This forum will assist our team members in the private sector in planning and preparing for those requirements.

The Team Redstone APBI will be held on Redstone Arsenal, July 13-14. This year's conference theme is "Rapid Reaction to Battlefield Requirements Today and Tomorrow."

The APBI conference coordinator is Lauretta Mitchell, technical industrial liaison officer at Research Development and Engineering Center. She can be reached at 876-4270 or e-mail Lauretta.Mitchell@rdec.redstone.army.mil.



Courtesy photo

## Neighbors helping neighbors

A \$6,456 check is presented to USO during the United Way of Madison County's first Community Investment Celebration on May 19 at the Von Braun Center. Bill Perkins, left, of the retiree community, makes the presentation to garrison commander Col. Bob Devlin and Donna Johnson, chairman of the Local Federal Coordinating Committee, Combined Federal Campaign.